CLAIMS

1. A data communication system configured to communicatively link a host device and a client device with a point-to-point data communication link, the host device and the client device each configured for multipoint data communication over a distributed network, the data communication system comprising:

a data communication interface driver configured to communicatively link with a data communication interface of the host device via the point-to-point data communication link;

a virtual driver component configured to communicate with the data communication interface driver and the client device; and

a virtual network configured to communicatively link the data communication interface driver and the virtual driver component.

2. A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication interface driver is a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate with the Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication link.

3. A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication interface driver is a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate Remote NDIS messages with the Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication link.

4. A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the virtual network is a local area network.

5. A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication interface driver is a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver configured to communicate with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

6. A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication interface driver is a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver configured to communicate Remote NDIS messages with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

7. A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication interface driver is a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate with the Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication link, and the Remote NDIS driver is configured to communicate with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

8. A data communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication interface driver is a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and the data communication interface is a Remote NDIS component configured to communicate Remote NDIS messages with the Remote NDIS driver via the point-to-point data communication link, and the Remote NDIS driver is configured to communicate the Remote NDIS messages with the virtual driver component via the virtual network.

9. A data communication system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a connection interface configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

10. A data communication system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a Universal Serial Bus data communication interface configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

11. A data communication system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a 1394 bus data communication interface configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

12. A data communication system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a wireless data communication interface configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

13. A data communication system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a Bluetooth data communication interface configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

14. A data communication system as recited in claim 1, further comprising an infrared data communication interface configured to couple the point-to-point data communication link with the client device.

15. A data communication system configured to communicatively link computing devices with a point-to-point data communication link, the data communication system comprising:

one or more multipoint network data communication components designed for data communication over a distributed network;

a connection interface configured to couple the one or more multipoint network data communication components with a remote computing device; and

wherein the one or more multipoint network data communication components are configured for point-to-point data communication with the remote computing device.

16. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the one or more multipoint network data communication components includes a data communication interface driver configured to communicatively link with a data communication interface of the remote computing device via the point-to-point data communication link.

17. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the one or more multipoint network data communication components includes a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver configured to communicatively link with a Remote NDIS component of the remote computing device via the point-to-point data communication link.

18. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the one or more multipoint network data communication components includes a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver configured to communicate Remote NDIS messages with a Remote NDIS component of the remote computing device via the point-to-point data communication link.

19. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the connection interface is a point-to-point data communication protocol interface.

20. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the connection interface is a Universal Serial Bus data communication interface.

21. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the connection interface is a 1394 bus data communication interface.

22. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the connection interface is a wireless data communication interface.

23. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the connection interface is a Bluetooth data communication interface.

24. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the connection interface is an infrared data communication interface.

25. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the one or more multipoint network data communication components includes a data communication interface driver and a virtual driver component, the data communication interface driver configured to communicate with the virtual driver component via a virtual network.

26. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the one or more multipoint network data communication components includes a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and a virtual driver component, the Remote NDIS driver configured to communicate with the virtual driver component via a virtual network.

27. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the one or more multipoint network data communication components includes a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and a virtual driver component, the Remote NDIS driver configured to communicate Remote NDIS messages with the virtual driver component via a virtual network.

28. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the one or more multipoint network data communication components includes a data communication interface driver and a virtual driver component, the data communication interface driver configured to communicatively link with a data communication interface of the remote computing device via the point-to-point data communication link, and the data communication interface driver further configured to communicate with the virtual driver component via a virtual network.

29. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the one or more multipoint network data communication components includes a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and a virtual driver component, the Remote NDIS driver configured to communicatively link with a Remote NDIS component of the remote computing device via the point-to-point data communication link, and the Remote NDIS driver further configured to communicate with the virtual driver component via a virtual network.

30. A data communication system as recited in claim 15, wherein the one or more multipoint network data communication components includes a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver and a virtual driver component, the Remote NDIS driver configured to communicate Remote NDIS messages with a Remote NDIS component of the remote computing device via the point-to-point data communication link, and the Remote NDIS driver further configured to communicate the Remote NDIS messages with the virtual driver component via a virtual network.

31. A data communication system configured to communicatively link a first device and a second device with a point-to-point data communication link, the point-to-point data communication link configured with multipoint network data communication components designed for data communication over a distributed network.

32. A method for implementing a point-to-point data communication link between computing devices, the method comprising:

providing a network communication component designed for data communication over a distributed network;

providing a connection interface to couple the network communication component with a host computing device; and

providing a virtual network to communicatively link the network communication component and a virtual driver component of a client computing device.

33. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the network communication component includes providing a data communication interface driver to communicatively link with a data communication interface of the host computing device via the point-to-point data communication link.

34. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the network communication component includes providing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver to communicatively link with a Remote NDIS component of the host computing device via the point-to-point data communication link.

35. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the network communication component includes providing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver to communicate Remote NDIS messages with a Remote NDIS component of the host computing device via the point-to-point data communication link.

36. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the connection interface includes providing a point-to-point data communication protocol interface.

37. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the connection interface includes providing a Universal Serial Bus data communication interface.

38. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the connection interface includes providing a 1394 bus data communication interface.

39. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the connection interface includes providing a wireless data communication interface.

40. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the connection interface includes providing a Bluetooth data communication interface.

41. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the connection interface includes providing an infrared data communication interface.

42. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the virtual network includes providing a virtual local area network.

43. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the network communication component includes providing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver, and wherein providing the virtual network includes providing a virtual local area network to communicate Remote NDIS messages between the Remote NDIS driver and the virtual driver component.

44. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein providing the network communication component includes providing a Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) driver to communicate Remote NDIS messages with a Remote NDIS component of the host computing device via the point-to-point data communication link, and wherein providing the virtual network includes providing a virtual local area network to communicate the Remote NDIS messages between the Remote NDIS driver and the virtual driver component.

45. A method for communicating data between a host device and a client device with a point-to-point data communication link, the client device performing the method comprising:

coupling to the host device with a connection interface to establish the point-to-point data communication link;

receiving data from a remotely located data communication interface; and

communicating the data from a data communication interface driver designed for data communication over a distributed network via a virtual network to a virtual driver component for the client device.

46. A method as recited in claim 45, wherein coupling with the connection interface includes coupling to the host device with a Universal Serial Bus data communication interface.

47. A method as recited in claim 45, wherein coupling with the connection interface includes coupling to the host device with a 1394 bus data communication interface.

48. A method as recited in claim 45, wherein coupling with the connection interface includes coupling to the host device with a wireless data communication interface.

49. A method as recited in claim 45, wherein coupling with the connection interface includes coupling to the host device with a Bluetooth data communication interface.

50. A method as recited in claim 45, wherein coupling with the connection interface includes coupling to the host device with an infrared data communication interface.

51. A method as recited in claim 45, wherein communicating includes communicating the data via a virtual local area network.

52. A method as recited in claim 45, wherein receiving includes receiving Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) messages from a Remote NDIS component.

53. A method as recited in claim 45, wherein receiving includes receiving Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) messages from a Remote NDIS component, and wherein communicating includes communicating the Remote NDIS messages from a Remote NDIS driver via the virtual network to the virtual driver component.

54. A method as recited in claim 45, wherein receiving includes receiving Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) messages from a Remote NDIS component, and wherein communicating includes communicating the Remote NDIS messages from a Remote NDIS driver via a virtual local area network to the virtual driver component.

55. One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to perform the method of claim 45.

56. A method for communicating data between a host device and one or more client devices with point-to-point data communication, the method comprising:

a first client device:

coupling to the host device with a first client device connection interface to establish a point-to-point data communication link between the host device and the first client device;

receiving Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (NDIS) messages from a Remote NDIS component of the host device;

communicating the Remote NDIS messages from a Remote NDIS driver designed for data communication over a distributed network via a virtual network to a virtual driver component for the first client device;

a second client device:

coupling to the host device with a second client device connection interface to establish a point-to-point data communication link between the host device and the second client device;

receiving the Remote NDIS messages from the Remote NDIS component of the host device; and

communicating the Remote NDIS messages from a Remote NDIS driver designed for data communication over a distributed network via a virtual network to a virtual driver component for the second client device.

57. A method as recited in claim 56, wherein coupling to the host device with a first client device connection interface and coupling to the host device with a second client device connection interface includes coupling to the host device with a Universal Serial Bus data communication interface.

58. A method as recited in claim 56, wherein coupling to the host device with a first client device connection interface and coupling to the host device with a second client device connection interface includes coupling to the host device with a wireless data communication interface.